GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2047
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
REDUCTION IN PRICES OF WHEAT AND RICE FOR BPL
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to further reduce the prices of rice and wheat sold for the people Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the distribution of rice and wheat to the BPL people at the reduced rate?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. However, during 2000-2001, the Government reduced the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families with effect from 25.7.2000. The CIPs were reduced from Rs. 450/- per quintal of wheat to Rs.415/- per quintal, and that for rice from Rs.590/- to Rs. 565/- per quintal. With the increase in Minimum Support Prices, the CIPs ofice should have been increased with effect from 1.10.2000 and for wheat with effect from 1.4.2001. However, the CIPs of wheat and rice for BPL families have been retained at the same level fixed in July, 2001, which are about 48% of the present economic cost of wheat and rice.

(c): The State Governments have been informed about the reduced prices for necessary action from their end.